

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing reflects amendments to the claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. Cancelled.
2. (Currently Amended) The modified-glycosaminoglycan of claim 4 224, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is selected from the group consisting of chondroitin, chondroitin sulfate, dermatan, dermatan sulfate, heparin, or heparan sulfate.
3. Cancelled.
4. (Currently Amended) The modified-glycosaminoglycan of claim 3 225, wherein "GAG-O-" represents the residue of hydroxyl group that is a primary C-6 hydroxyl group contained within an N-acetyl-glucosamine residue present in the hyaluronan.
5. (Currently Amended) The modified-glycosaminoglycan of claim 4 225, wherein at least one secondary hydroxyl of the hyaluronan is substituted with -  $\text{L}^1\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}-\text{NH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{L}^2-\text{Q}-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}-\text{NHC}(\text{O})-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{SH}$ .
6. Cancelled.
7. (Currently Amended) The modified-glycosaminoglycan of claim 4 224, wherein "GAG-O-" represents the residue of a hydroxyl group that is a primary C-6 hydroxyl group contained within a non-uronic acid sugar component of a repeating disaccharide of the glycosaminoglycan.
- 8 - 50. Cancelled.
51. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 4 224, wherein the GAG comprises a sulfated-glycosaminoglycan.

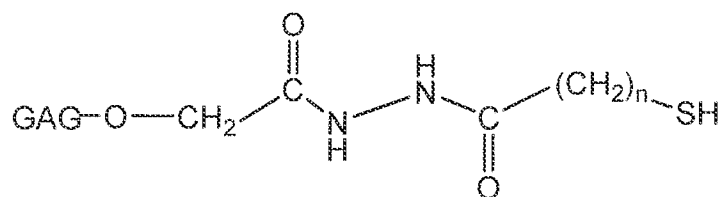
52. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 51, wherein the GAG is selected from the group consisting of chondroitin sulfate, dermatan sulfate, and heparan sulfate.

53. - 199. (Canceled)

200. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a living cell and the modified glycosaminoglycan of claim 4 224, where the modified glycosaminoglycan may be crosslinked.

201. - 223. Cancelled.

224. (Currently Amended) The A modified glycosaminoglycan of claim 24, corresponding to the structure:



wherein

"GAG" is a glycosaminoglycan possessing a plurality of hydroxyl groups.

"GAG-O" represents a residue of a hydroxyl group on the glycosaminoglycan.

n is 2 or 3, and

0.1% to 40% of the glycosaminoglycan's primary hydroxyl groups are substituted with -CH<sub>2</sub>C(O)NH-NH-C(O)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-SH.

225. (Previously Presented) The modified glycosaminoglycan of claim 224, wherein the GAG is hyaluronan.

226. (Previously Presented) The modified glycosaminoglycan of claim 225, wherein n is 2.

227 - 228. Cancelled.

229. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the modified glycosaminoglycan of claim 224 in a crosslinked form.

230. (Currently Amended) The modified glycosaminoglycan of claim 229, wherein n is equal to 2.

231. - 233. Cancelled.

234. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 229, wherein the modified glycosaminoglycan is crosslinked with a thiolated compound.

235. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 234, wherein the thiolated compound is a thiolated collagen or a thiolated gelatin.

236. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 235, wherein the thiolated compound is a thiolated gelatin, and further wherein the thiolated gelatin is 3,3'-dithiobis(propanoic dihydrazide)-modified gelatin (gelatin-DTPH).

237. (Previously Presented). The composition of claim 229, wherein the modified glycosaminoglycan is crosslinked with polyethyleneglycol diacrylate (PEGDA).

238. Cancelled.

239. (Currently Amended) The modified glycosaminoglycan of claim 4 224 or the composition of claim 229, which is effective to support the growth of primary cells or immortalized cells.

240. (Previously Presented) The modified glycosaminoglycan or the composition set forth in claim 239, wherein the cells are selected from the group consisting of tumor cells, fibroblasts, chondrocytes, stem cells, epithelial cells, neural

cells, cells derived from the liver, endothelial cells, cardiac cells, muscle cells, and osteoblasts.

241. Cancelled.

242. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a coating comprising the modified glycosaminoglycan of claim 4 224.

243. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 242, wherein the article is a suture, a clamp, stent, a prosthesis, a catheter, a metal screw, a bone plate, a pin or a bandage.

244. (Currently Amended) A 3-D cell culture comprising the modified glycosaminoglycan of claim 4 224.

245. Cancelled.

246. Cancelled.